



WYE VALLEY HERITAGE

Sainte-Marie among the Hurons is one of three complexes comprising the Wye Valley Heritage. Included is the Martyrs' Shrine, a memorial to the eight North American martyr saints; and the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, featuring nature displays and walkways through the natural environment of the area.

Watch for WYE VALLEY HERITAGE signs along highways leading to Midland.

Adjacent to Sainte-Marie is a 30-acre, day-use picnic and barbecue park.

STE MARIE HOURS: Victoria Day weekend in May to Labour Day 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and to Canadian Thanksgiving 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(last admission : 45 minutes before site closes)

ADMISSION: Adults \$1.50; students 75¢; children 25¢; family \$3.50. Rates subject to change. Groups by reservation only, special rates available

WRITE: Huronia Historical Parks
P.O. Box 160
Midland, Ontario L4R 4K8
or telephone: (705) 526-7838



Ontario Ministry
of Culture and
Recreation

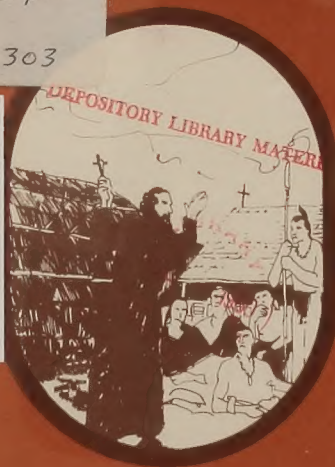
Hon. Reuben C. Baetz
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Deputy Minister

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Sainte-Marie among the Hurons (1639-1649)

Midland, Ontario

Sainte-Marie Today

In the summer of 1639 construction began on Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, the central headquarters for the Jesuits' mission to the Huron, or Ouendat people. Situated in the wilderness of New France, Sainte-Marie was to be a place of rest and rejuvenation for the priests who spent most of the year ministering to the natives in outlying villages. This pocket of European civilization was also designed as an example of French culture and a centre of refuge for the native Christians.

Struggling for the first few years, the community finally began to thrive and grow under the devoted care of the priests and their dedicated helpers. Sainte-Marie eventually became home to one-fifth of the European population of New France.

Though it appeared the mission work was going well, all was not peaceful in the native villages. For years the Ouendat had been warring with the Iroquois, now their rivals in the lucrative fur trade. Aggravated by the pressures of a different civilization that had brought with it disease previously unknown to the New World, the traditional

enmity between Ouendat and Iroquois reached a climax. A crisis was at hand.

In the spring of 1648, the Iroquois attacked the village of St. Joseph, and Father Antoine Daniel lost his life.

During an Iroquois raid on two mission villages a year later, Fathers Jean de Brébeuf and Gabriel Lalemant, along with hundreds of Ouendat were captured and killed. Survivors scattered in confusion. The French missionaries waited for an attack on Sainte-Marie that never came.

Later that spring, convinced their place was with Ouendat friends, the Jesuits sadly burned Sainte-Marie to the ground and moved with the natives to the safety of Christian Island. A year of dreadful hardship, starvation and death plagued the Ouendat. They were so reduced in numbers that the Jesuits, after much deliberation, decided to abandon the mission in Ouendake. They returned to Québec in 1650 with a few hundred Christian survivors who chose to join them. The wilderness reclaimed the mission sites and the Ouendat nation was no more.



1. Mission-Community Protected by stone bastions and palisade walls, Sainte-Marie was the central headquarters for the French Jesuits' Christian mission to the Ouendat.

2. Skin Drying Room Hides and furs may have been stored in this area until they were used for domestic purposes or transported to Kébec.

3. Barracks Soldiers who wintered at Sainte-Marie accompanied the supply flotillas to and from Kébec in an attempt to maintain vital lifelines.

4. Bastions Used primarily as observation towers, the bastions here are similar to those in 17th century France.

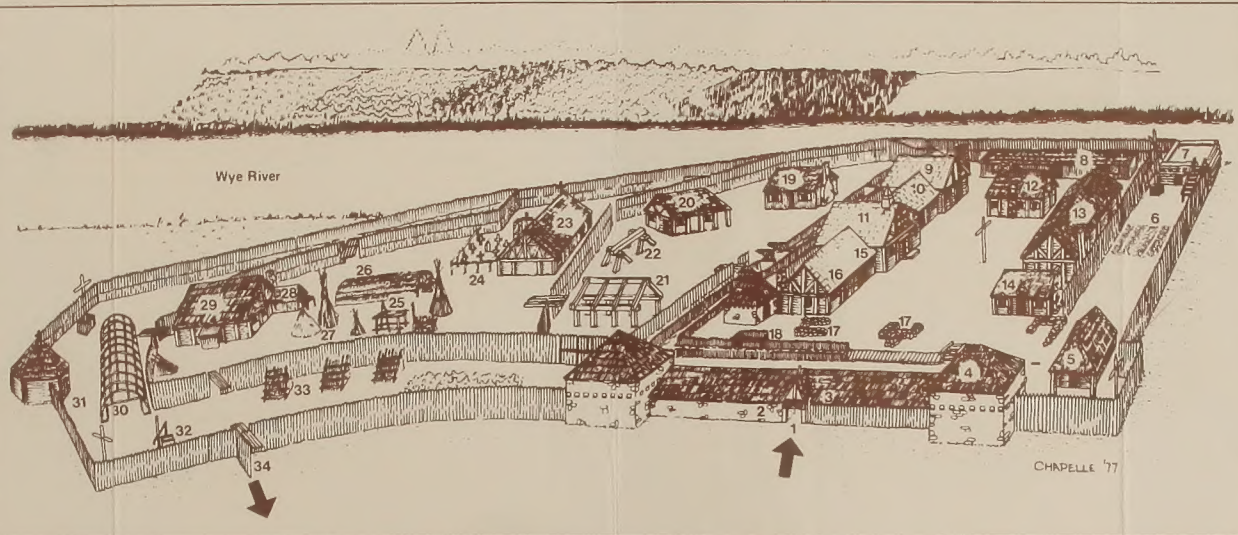
5. Granary With as much as a three-year supply of food accumulated, large areas were required to prepare, dry and store produce.

6. Cookhouse Garden The French relied heavily on the Ouendat for corn, beans and squash, but they may have planted additional vegetables common to Kébec gardens.

7. Northwest Bastion Imagine how satisfying it must have been to stand here in late summer and behold bountiful crops in fields across the river.

8. Stables Striving always to become self-sufficient, the Jesuits had cows, pigs and chickens brought to Sainte-Marie.

9. Jesuit Residence The priests regularly returned to the mission headquarters from nearby villages for rest, friendship and spiritual rejuvenation.



10. Refectory In this room, simple meals would provide an opportunity for fellowship, reflection and thanksgiving.

11. Chapel of St. Mary Here, in as much splendor as an isolated chapel would allow, each Jesuit began his day before dawn with a private mass.

12. Cookhouse All meals for the community were prepared here and distributed throughout the mission.

13. Farmer's Dwelling For the practicality of heat and convenience, it was common for a farmer and his animals to be housed under the same roof.

14. Boivin Building Like all donnés, Charles Boivin, the master builder, gave his skills for the development of the mission without remuneration.

15. Carpenter Shop Because the remote mission lay in heavily-forested country, most amenities of life were produced from wood.

16. Blacksmith Shop Iron from France was skilfully forged by Brother Louis Gauber into such things as hinges, nails and household goods.

17. Original Stonework More than 300 years ago limestone quarried nearby was either "dressed" or crushed into mortar for sturdy foundations.

18. Locked Waterway This system was fed by an underground aqueduct from a nearby spring.

19. "En Pilier" Possibly the first building at Sainte-Marie, this dwelling is different because of its "en pilier", or vertical post construction.

20. Shoemaker Shop The moccasin is just one of many native items the French adopted in their struggle for survival in "la Nouvelle France".

21. "En Colombage" An insulating fill such as stone and earth packed between parallel walls of boards was a type of "en colombage bousillé" architecture unique to Sainte-Marie.

22. Saw Trestle Once a white pine timber was squared with axes, the resulting beam was hoisted onto the trestle where two sawyers cut it into planks.

23. Church of St. Joseph The Church accommodated native Christians and a growing French community. When Jean de Brébeuf was martyred at St. Ignace, his body was buried here.

24. Cemetery Native Christians who came to trust and love the Jesuits asked to be buried in the mission cemetery.

25. Native Area Conveniences common to Ouendat life such as stones for grinding corn, available wood supplies and drying racks were used by natives stopping over at Sainte-Marie.

26. Longhouse "We have prepared for them a refuge or a cabin of bark wherein God gives us the means of lodging and feeding these good Pilgrims in their own country." Ref. *Jesuit Relations* (Vol. XXIII, pg. 21)

27. Wigwam When the nomadic Algonkin visited the mission they may have stayed in dwellings such as these.

28. Apothecary Shop Until Doctor Gendron arrived, Joseph Molère, the apothecaire, treated the sick with fruits, herbs and ointments.

29. Hospital When European diseases such as measles, small pox and influenza weakened the Ouendat society, the hospital provided some comfort for the sick and dying.

30. Longhouse Frame Constructed of saplings and later covered with elm bark, this structure provided comfortable shelter for visitors.

31. Five-sided Bastion This building was used to keep watch over Sainte-Marie's southern exposure.

32. Sweep Well A fresh water supply was available for both the surgeon and the native people.

33. Non-Christian Area Native people who were not inclined to listen to the teachings of the Jesuits were permitted to stop over in this area.

34. Pathway to 17th Century France (Museum).